There have been other, more modest efforts to promote the Bureau through the broadcast media. For years the NBC radio "Monitor" program ran a five-minute segment every weekend on some aspect of FBI operations; when it was dropped in 1964, the idea was picked up by ABC as "FBI Washington." The program continues today with a five-minute interview, broadcast every Sunday morning, with the assistant director in charge of the External Affairs Division. Field offices have been encouraged to emulate these projects in their local areas, and similar radio and television interviews have been arranged by the Bureau in Chicago and Columbia, South Carolina, among other places. In the 1940s and early 1950s the Bureau also participated – even supplying agents as actors – in a number of commercial films glorifying its exploits, including *The House on 92nd Street, Walk a Crooked Mile,* and *Walk East on Beacon.*

It was not only in broadcasting and movies that the Bureau pitched in to help what it had reason to expect would be favorable portrayals. Over the years the FBI also cooperated enthusiastically with several authors, on the condition that the Bureau would have the final right of approval over what they wrote. The prime example and crowning accomplishment of that policy was *The FBI Story* by the double Pulitzer Prize–winning reporter Don Whitehead. Washington bureau chief of the *New York Herald Tribune* at the time, Whitehead was notified in 1955 that if he renewed an earlier request for help with a history of the Bureau, it would be agreed to. For the next year Whitehead was spoon-fed by the Crime Records Division, with Assistant-to-the-Director Louis B. Nichols carefully supervising the project. Whitehead saw exactly what the Bureau wanted him to see and only that, notwithstanding the Director's claim, in his foreword to the book, that "we felt it was our duty to provide him with full facts so that he could form his own independent judgement on our policies, procedures and performance." As Nichols put it in an interview years later, "Whitehead made a few mistakes, but by going over the manuscript we were able to put him back on the right track. . . . We corrected a few of his facts, but we never interfered with his conclusions."

Whitehead produced a book that is an extraordinary document and a fascinating period piece. He was able to include many stories that had never before been told, including details of the FBI's Special Intelligence Service work during World War II, and he had access to private Hoover memoranda recording some of the Director's recollections of confidential prewar conversations with President Roosevelt. The book reports the official FBI version of events surrounding its